

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/685,593

Examiner

Jason M. Han

Applicant(s)

ROBERTSON ET AL.

Art Unit

2875

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 22 June 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-12 and 14-22.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 16 October 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 20050810.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with David Voorhees on August 10, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

- a. Claim 2 cancelled
- b. Claim 1, Line 10 delete "."
- c. Claim 1, Line 10, following "cover plate", insert -- , wherein said LED is a multi-color LED and said cover plate having a manually operable switch mounted thereon whereby said switch includes a plurality of positions with each of said positions corresponding to a different color of light emitted from said LED such that by moving said switch from a first position to a second position, the color of light emitted by said multi-color LED can be changed. --
- d. Claim 14, Line 10, following "therethrough", insert -- , said face including an electrical outlet --

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1, 3-12, and 14-22 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

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4. With regards to Independent Claim 1, the applicant has sufficiently amended and narrowly defined an electrical component cover plate, wherein a translucent cover plate with reflective inner surfaces has a quick connect/disconnect multi-colored LED mounted thereon, and whereby a manually operable switch is mounted on said cover plate to provide a plurality of positions corresponding to a different color of light emitted from said LED. The prior art fails to teach or suggest the combination of structural elements disclosed and claimed herein, and all subsequent dependent claims are allowed.

5. With regards to Independent Claim 14, the applicant has sufficiently amended and narrowly defined an optical conductor electrical outlet, wherein a cover plate has interior reflective wall surfaces, an LED mounted to one of said walls, and a transparent/translucent face mounted to said cover plate and including an electrical outlet. The prior art fails to teach or suggest the combination of structural elements disclosed and claimed herein, and all subsequent dependent claims are allowed.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The following references are further cited to show the state of the art pertinent to the current application, but are not considered exhaustive:

US Publication 2005/0135103 to Evans;


US Publication 2005/0152128 to Campman.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason M. Han whose telephone number is (571) 272-2207. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on (571) 272-2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JMH (8/10/2005)


Stephen Husar
Primary Examiner